

made great progress uprooting the terrorists from their havens and liberating millions of people. We also have provided our law enforcement and intelligence agencies with new tools to combat these threats.

Yet, there is so much more to do. We are at war against terror and we must protect our borders. If we cannot control our borders, how can we prevent those who would murder us from entering our nation?

Millions attempt to enter our nation illegally every year, and many are apprehended. I commend our border patrol for their fine work under difficult conditions. However, millions have crossed the border successfully in the past five years, and we do not know how many are terrorists.

Our borders are another battlefield in the War on Terror.

THE CHARLES B. RANGEL INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with my colleagues the presence in the House of the participants in an important and exciting program today, The Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program, and to welcome these extraordinary young people to their period of service in the Congress. The Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship Program was initiated from my desire that the State Department's Diplomatic Corps abroad would reflect the rich diversity represented by the American people at home. The program presents young adults from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to learn, participate, and become a part of the United States' diplomatic corps.

This program is a successful collaboration between the Congress, the State department, and Howard University, which administers the program with a cross-section of colleges and universities across the country. Former Secretary of State Colin L. Powell introduced the program on May 17, 2002 at a State Department ceremony and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has expressed her profound support for continuing and expanding this initiative.

In the last 2 years, the components of the Rangel Program were reviewed and evaluated by the State Department and were found to satisfy the stringent requirement for inclusion in the Department's prestigious Diplomacy Fellows Program. This milestone achievement has included the program in the distinguished ranks of such programs as the Presidential Management Interns, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Boren, Fawcett, and Pickering Fellows Programs. As a result, fellows who successfully complete the Rangel Program and the State Department requirements will automatically receive employment offers and appointments to the Foreign Service.

In addition, I would like to personally welcome the 2006 Charles B. Rangel Fellows to Capitol Hill. We currently have Jacob Choi, a graduate of Brigham Young University, who will attend Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in the Fall, serving Rep. ELIOT

ENGEL's office; Christopher Hartfield, a graduate of Stanford University, who will attend Tufts's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in the Fall, serving in Rep. ADAM B. SCHIFF's office; Teresa Williamson a graduate of Dillard University who will attend Yale University in the Fall, serving in Rep. DONALD M. PAYNE's office; Sara Marti a graduate of the University of Central Florida who will attend the University of Denver's School of International Studies, serving in Rep. JOSE E. SERRANO's office; Chansonett Hall, a graduate of Penn State University, who will attend the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public and International Affairs serving in Rep. GREGORY W. MEEKS' office; Yehia Hanan, a graduate of Howard University, who will attend Georgetown University's School of Public Policy, serving in Sen. JOSEPH R. BIDEN's office; Marcus Jackson, a graduate of Florida A&M University who is serving in Rep. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA's office; Paloma Gonzalez, a graduate of Lewis and Clark College, who will attend Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, serving in Rep. BARBARA LEE's office; and Brandon Jackson, a graduate of Cornell University, who will also attend Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, serving in my office.

I have been eagerly awaiting your arrival. I have read each and every single one of your bios and I am extremely impressed with all of your diverse areas of study and accomplishments. I know your experience on the Hill will be an invaluable help to you in the Foreign Service.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues and friends for the invaluable experiences that they are providing and for personally hosting a Rangel Fellow in their offices. The experiences to be obtained during their time in the House of Representatives will provide insight that is a special and unique part of this program. This Capitol Hill exposure and experience will be particularly useful as they enter the State Department as junior Foreign Service Officers. Thank you for the wonderful opportunities that you are providing this summer.

I am extremely proud of this program and its contribution to the country. I believe that in America, diversity is our strength. With our Nation's growing international involvement, there could be no better time than now to attract the very best, the brightest, and the most diverse talent available to represent the American people and champion our interests in every corner of the globe.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER RAY DEAN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Dean, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

I join with your family and friends in expressing best wishes on your significant

achievement. I commend you on attaining such a high honor and your superior contributions to your community. Showing particular dedication to the children at Children's Mercy Hospital, Christopher developed an activity for the patients. Being recognized for your remarkable achievement reflects both your hard work and dedication. I am sure you will continue to hold such high standards in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Ray Dean for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Christopher in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday this House voted and unanimously passed H. Res. 622, to recognize and honor the Filipino World War II veterans for their defense of democratic ideals and their important contribution to the outcome of World War II. While I applaud the House's long due recognition to the bravery and commitment of these Filipino veterans in the service of the United States military, I must stress that our responsibility in Congress is still not complete. A great injustice was perpetrated on the Filipino veterans, and Congress must correct it.

On July 26, 1941, President Roosevelt ordered the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines to serve under the United States military command. Thousands of Filipino soldiers gave their lives in the battles of Bataan and Corregidor, and more than 120,000 Filipinos fought under the command of General Douglas MacArthur during World War II. These soldiers won for the United States the precious time needed to disrupt the enemy's plan for conquest of the Pacific. At the time of recruitment, the United States government promised that all members of the armed forces who fought for our Nation would be treated as U.S. veterans for the purposes of their benefits.

Congress unfortunately withdrew this promise through the Rescission Act of 1946, which stated that the service of these Filipino soldiers "shall not be deemed to be or have been service in the military or naval forces of the United States". While some Filipino veterans now receive full veterans' benefits, many others are still waiting for the Congress to do the right thing, and restore the benefits that were promised to them nearly six decades ago.

Although H. Res. 622 recognizes the brave men and women who sacrificed to keep our country safe, the resolution does not fully restore justice to these brave patriots. H.R. 4574, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, would amend the Rescission Act of 1946, restoring their honor and their veteran status as was promised.

Mr. Speaker, these WWII heroes are in the twilight of their lives, and time is running out for Congress to fully recognize their service. Do not let H. Res. 622 be a simple substitute for the also bipartisan H.R. 4574 that will restore the honor and dignity these Filipino veterans rightfully deserve.